

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIM

Claims 1 through 13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) An intracranial aspiration catheter, comprising:
an elongate, flexible tubular body, having a proximal end, a distal end, and an aspiration lumen extending therethrough;
a distally facing opening on the distal end of the aspiration lumen;
a proximal section on the body, having a fixed diameter;
a distal section on the body in which the aspiration lumen including the distally facing opening is movable between a first, reduced inside diameter for transluminal navigation and a second, enlarged inside diameter for aspirating material;
an axially movable support for controllably supporting the aspiration lumen against collapse when in the second diameter; and
a control on the proximal end of the catheter for controlling the support;
wherein the distal section is advanced from the first diameter to the second diameter in response to distal movement of the support; and
wherein the support is in a first proximal position within the catheter when the distal section is in the first inside diameter configuration and a second distal position within the catheter to support the distal section when the distal section is in the second inside diameter configuration.
15. (Original) An intracranial aspiration catheter as in Claim 14, wherein the support comprises a spiral element.
16. (Original) An intracranial aspiration catheter as in Claim 15, wherein the support comprises a spring coil.
17. (Cancelled).
18. (Original) An intracranial aspiration catheter as in Claim 14, wherein the support is activated by rotating a first end of the support relative to a second end of the support.
19. (Currently Amended) An intracranial aspiration catheter as in Claim 14, wherein the aspiration lumen in the distal section is defined within a tubular wall having a plurality of folds therein when the aspiration lumen is in the first inside diameter configuration.

20. (Currently Amended) An intracranial aspiration catheter as in Claim 14, wherein the aspiration lumen in the distal section is defined within a stretchable tubular wall.

Claims 21 through 36 (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) An intracranial aspiration catheter as in Claim 14, wherein the elongate flexible tubular body has a length within the range of from 60 cm to 250 cm.

38. (Previously Presented) An intracranial aspiration catheter as in Claim 14, wherein the elongate flexible tubular body has a length of from about 135 cm to about 175 cm.

39. (Previously Presented) An intracranial aspiration catheter as in Claim 14, wherein the proximal section has a length within the range of 20 cm to 220 cm.

40. (Previously Presented) An intracranial aspiration catheter as in Claim 14, wherein the proximal section has a length from 100 cm to about 120 cm.

41. (Previously Presented) An intracranial aspiration catheter as in Claim 14, wherein the distal section has a length in the range of from 2 cm to about 50 cm.

42. (Previously Presented) An intracranial aspiration catheter as in Claim 14, wherein the distal section has a length in the range of from about 5 cm to about 20 cm.

43. (Previously Presented) An intracranial aspiration catheter as in Claim 15, comprising a control wire extending from the spiral element to the proximal end of the catheter.

44. (New) An access catheter, comprising:

an elongate, flexible tubular body, having a proximal end, a distal end, and an aspiration lumen extending therethrough;

a distally facing opening on the distal end of the aspiration lumen;

a proximal section on the body, having a fixed diameter;

a distal section on the body in which the aspiration lumen including the distally facing opening is movable between a first, reduced inside diameter for transluminal navigation and a second, enlarged inside diameter for aspirating material;

an axially movable support for controllably supporting the aspiration lumen against collapse when in the second diameter; and

a control on the proximal end of the catheter for controlling the support;

wherein the distal section is advanced from the first diameter to the second diameter in response to distal movement of the support; and

wherein the support is in a first proximal position within the catheter when the distal section is in the first inside diameter configuration and a second distal position within the catheter to support the distal section when the distal section is in the second inside diameter configuration.

45. (New) An access catheter as in Claim 44, wherein the support comprises a spiral element.

46. (New) An access catheter as in Claim 45, wherein the support comprises a spring coil.

47. (New) An access catheter as in Claim 44, wherein the support is activated by rotating a first end of the support relative to a second end of the support.

48. (New) An access catheter as in Claim 44, wherein the aspiration lumen in the distal section is defined within a tubular wall having a plurality of folds therein when the aspiration lumen is in the first inside diameter configuration.

49. (New) An access catheter as in Claim 44, wherein the aspiration lumen in the distal section is defined within a stretchable tubular wall.

50. (New) An access catheter as in Claim 44, wherein the elongate flexible tubular body has a length within the range of from 60 cm to 250 cm.

51. (New) An access catheter as in Claim 44, wherein the elongate flexible tubular body has a length of from about 135 cm to about 175 cm.

52. (New) An access catheter as in Claim 44, wherein the proximal section has a length within the range of 20 cm to 220 cm.

53. (New) An access catheter as in Claim 44, wherein the proximal section has a length from 100 cm to about 120 cm.

54. (New) An access catheter as in Claim 44, wherein the distal section has a length in the range of from 2 cm to about 50 cm.

55. (New) An access catheter as in Claim 44, wherein the distal section has a length in the range of from about 5 cm to about 20 cm.

56. (New) An access catheter as in Claim 45, comprising a control wire extending from the spiral element to the proximal end of the catheter.